Facilities at petrol pumps

1268. SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any Memorandum from the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry suggesting setting up of an autonomous regulatory agency for petroleum market and making mandatory provision for opening general stores/shops, at all petrol pumps in rural areas as may provide postal/telephone/internet facilities and vehicle repair workshops as well;

(b) if so, the response of his Ministry thereto;

(c) the time likely to be taken in providing these facilities at all the petrol pumps in rural areas all over the country; and

(d) the details of the plan, if any, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have received a Memorandum from the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry suggesting *inter-alia*, the setting up of an independent Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board and making it mandatory for the petrol refilling stations in rural areas to provide facilities like post office, telephone, internet, tractor and truck repair, utility shopping including a medical store.

(b) to (d) Government propose to set up a Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board to ensure uninterrupted and adequate supply of petroleum, petroleum products, and natural gas to all parts of the country including remote areas, at fair prices and to establish sectoral regulations to ensure competition, protect the consumer and encourage investment as well as to take action against violation of Rules and Regulations of the Board.

Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are free to decide about providing various additional facilities at Retail Outlets in rural areas as per their commercial considerations.

Price parity on crude

1269. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Asian crude producers impose an additional premium on supplies to Asian countries including India;